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THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2016

Published by Postmedia

Officers cleared in Fenwick shootout



Police and emergency crews at the scene of last October's triple-shooting in Fenwick. The province's Special Investigations Unit has released a report on the incident. See more on page 2









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Shooter ambushed cops in hallway: report

Postmedia Network

The man wbo shot two Niagara Regional Police officers last October left his apartment with his hands up before pulling a concealed handgun from his waistband and opening fire, according

The province's Special Investigations Unit released its findings of the dramatic events last Thursday after concluding its investigation last week

The incident occurred in a hallway of a Fenwick apartment building on Canboro Road on Oct. 10, 2015. Both officers and the man were wounded

The Special Investigations Unit is Ontario's civilian oversight agency responsible for investigating circumstances involving police that result in death or serious injury. The SIU cleared all the officers involved of any

wrongdoing. "Consider the scene," said Joseph Martin, the SIU's acting director. "These were tight quarters and the officers had little to no benefit of distance or cover when the man left his apartment, acted as if he was surrendering and then drew a concealed handgun

and started firing "The two witness officers, in particular, were severely exposed, being closest to the man and were shot at point blank range before they were able to react." The incident began at

about 8 p.m. when police

received a call concerning a depressed and suicidal 28-year-old man, who was in possession of several fire-

The call indicated he might have bomb-making material The officers are listed in the report as Officer No. 1 and Officer No. 2. After the other residents of the third floor were evacuated, two other

officers took up positions at either end of the hallway. Officer No. 1 is believed to he Const. Neal Ridley. Officer No. 2 is believed to be Const. Jake Braun.

The man was identified by neighbours as Corey Richardson. He had recently broken up with his girlfriend. they said at the time of the shooting

Attempts to reach Richardson were unsuccessful. Police have not confirmed that Richardson was involved in the incident. Richardson has not been charged and police have not identified a suspect, but the shooting remains under

criminal investigation by the NRP's bomicide unit. They aren't releasing any more information about their investigation at this time.

The SIU reported that as the officers waited for the arrival of the NRP's tactical unit, the man stepped out of his apartment into the hall-

He quickly re-entered the apartment and closed the door. In the brief moment when the door was opened. the officers saw he indeed had several long guns, according to the report.

Ridley spoke to the man through the door. After several minutes of conversation. Ridley holstered his firearm and raised his hands in front of the man's peephole to assure him he meant no harm. The man agreed to leave his apartment. When the man stepped out a few minutes later, he had his hands up. It

appeared he was surrendering peacefully. As he took several steps in

FAMILY

OPERATED

he pulled a handgun from his waistband and started shooting, according to the report. The SIU said he fired

The report said Ridley was struck and fell to the floor. The bullet passed through his shoulder and exited through his neck. Ridley fired one sbot at the man.

Braun attempted to shoot at the man, but his rifle jammed before discharging any rounds. Two other officers at the

end of the hallway returned fire, and man was struck "and incapacitated," the report said. The officers fired seven shots in all. Ridley and the man were

rushed to hospital with serious, life-threatening injuries. Each survived. Braun was wounded in the foot. Ridley is an eight-year member of the force and recipient of awards in 2013 and 2014 for his commitment to safer communities through his role as a school

Braun is a five-year member of the force and recipient of the Ontario Police College student of the year award (2011). "The main point that has

resource officer.

been reiterated by the SIU investigation is the heroic effort displayed by the officers that night," said Cliff Priest, president of the Niagara Region Police Association. "It is very clear, the officer that suffered the



Niagara Regional Police Const. Neal Ridley. most severe and poten-

tially fatal injuries, tried to de-escalate the event to the point of putting his gun "It is a very traumatic and

stressful situation for these officers. They were shot at. They shot back. It has a lasting effect on everyone involved. It is something that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

"Most of us, thank God, have never had to do it. and we bope we never will. We know that there is the potential for this on every call we go on. We had some information about weapons, but we get these calls all the

"We never know what is on the other side of the door when we knock"

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No NRE this year

MICHELLE ALLENBERG stredia Network

For what could be the first time in 163 years, there will not be a Niagara Regional Exhibition,

Facing declining revenues and volunteers, the Niagara Regional Agricultural Society board members reluctantly voted about two weeks ago to cancel this year's exhibition. But society president Ray-

mond Ravazzolo said the board plans to bring the historic fair back to Welland in 2017, for Canada's 150th Ravazzolo said the board

chose to cancel the NRE this year after some back and forth between board members about "a lot of hard things." Board member Bill Foote

said declining attendance "definitely played a role" in the decision.

"It's been a very stressful two years. There's a lot of issues that have arisen over the past few years that have dragged us a little closer to the edge of the toilet seat." Foote said

"It just seems like the people in the region are not really interested in going to an agricultural fair. To be quite honest we haven't really kept up with the times. You realize the complexity of running an exhibition and the kind of manpower that it actually

requires. Without the support of the community. Foote said the financial responsibility

"takes its toll on you." "You're trying to find different ways of pinching pennies and making changes and being responsible financially to the board and the people of Niagara." Sometimes, there's just

not enough money to put something like this on to the caliber that the public expects," he said, "It has to be something that is going to pay for itself. Unfortunately over the past few years, we haven't been able to do that:

The NRE has invested in the property as well recently. installing lighting and electrical services among other enhancements

Meanwhile, bringing large attractions to the fair often costs far more than the board recoups through ticket sales, and much of that cost goes toward paying the city.

For instance, security costs are more than \$10,000, and paying Welland firefighters to be on standby for the demolition derby or fireworks displays adds significantly to the cost of running

the event Welland Mayor Frank Campion said he was unaware the NRE was having any difficulties.

Campion said board men bers from the NRE would have to reach out to the city for assistance, but no one had. If the NRE had contacted the city, Campion said he is sure city councillors would have been in favour of providing assistance.

"We would like to work with them to make that hapnen. We can enter into talks with them to make it happen. It's unfortunate, we could have helped them,"

Campion said. Welland is sure to feel an impact from the absence of the Niagara Food Festival

and the NRE. Campion said many visitors and vendors come from out of town, they need to stay somewhere and spend money eating out.

spin off impact will be, but there will be an economic

For Campion, the biggest impact is the loss of the exhibition for a year - there are so many memories created. He hopes whatever issues the NRE are dealing with can be resolved so it can return in 2017.

Welland MPP Cindy Forstor said she know the fair had been struggling for the past few years, but learning that the fair had been cancelled was disappointing.

Continued on page 5



Mysterious, a 1,500-pound Guernsey cow from Comfort Farms in St. Ann's, has her neck hair sheared by Nathen High as she readies for the cattle show at the Niagara Regional Exhibition in this September 2011 file photo. There will be no fair this year.







COMMENT

Published by PelhamNEWS, Postmedia Corp. 228 East Main St., Welland, ON L38 SPS Tel: 905-722-2414 ext.246 Fax: 905-722-3660 e-mail: welland.tribune@sunmodia.ca John Tobon, cacu-accusa creation Peter Corradi, www.sp.goroe

Do not claim greatness, but strive for it



Perception is reality.

It's a catchy bit of phrasing isn't it? When someone says it, people nod in agreement as though they just heard the collective wisdom of every great philosopher summed up in three words.

However, "perception is reality" is the sort of verbal trick that makes sense until you think about it for a moment. To be for there is come truth

think about it for a moment.

To be fair, there is some truth
in those words.

If a person constantly thinks

of themselves in an overtly negative fashion, that can have a profound impact on their behaviour. Otherwise, it is just so much

Otherwise, it is just so much pap. Really doesn't change through the lens of our attitudes or wants. Gravity, for instance, doesn't give a hoot about your perceptions. You might believe, like Peter Pan, hat you can fly by thinking happy thoughts, but you'll still plummet to a messy doom if you leap from a building. Why am I ranting so?

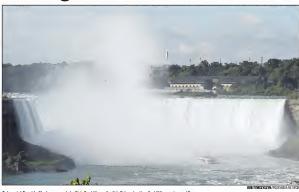
Because 'perception is reality' is the summation of the argument Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs offered up as a rebuttal to the July 14 edition of this column titled "Niagara is not great."

I had grown weary of the empty rhetoric of ponderous politicians who use a transparently false mythology of greatness" as a community bromide.

There are bright spots in

Niagara to be sure, but the region continues to suffer from chronically high unemployment, shamefully high rates of child poverty and skyrocketing housing costs. With only a few notable

With only a few notable exceptions, Niagara is neither a hub of culture nor an economic power.



Columnist Grant LaFleche responds to Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs' contention that "Niagara is great."

These are facts. Yet, too Jeffs brushes off the eco- tal column — encouraging of

These are facts. Yet, too many of our political leaders and community boosters placing far too much emphasis upon positive branding repeat the tired slogan, "Niagara is great."

Thus enters Mayor Jeffs, befines greatness as having some pretty landscaping, a some pretty landscaping, a psychic show at the Meridian Centre and positive attitude. By that measure, just about every community in Canada

is "great." And if everything is exceptional, then nothing is. Jeffs is correct when she points out the excellence of Nagara's wine industry. There is no question it is the bright light of our economy. But it doesn't employ most Nagarans nor can it solve the deeper problems the region faces.

nomic malaise of Niagara saying there is "always room for improvement, and we will continue to build on our strengths here in the great region of Niasara."

Perhaps the mayor should spend more time visiting our food banks which now operate in a state of near-constant crisis, or the homes of single parents having to work multiple jobs to put food on the table, or the schools where a breakfast program is the only access some children have to a healthy meal.

If she does, she will realize this isn't a question of finding "room for improvement" but facing serious economic and social issues that have no easy solutions

While I welcome the rebut-

tal column — encouraging debate is why this column exists — Jeffs does her argument no favours by only partly quoting me when she notes that 'LaFleche says he often hears from the parents of children who say they love Niagara and want to stay here. So, doesn't that mean they think they come of the say that they have the say they love they have the say they love they have the say they love they have the have the have the have the hard have the hard have the have the hard h

Niagara is great?"
What I wrote was that "I
often hear from readers who
say their kids love Niagara and
want to stay here, but have left
for other communities with
better opportunities."

The young and the talented find few opportunities here and mat move on. Nagara is their home, and they would prefer to work where they grew up, but reality has forced their hand.

The problems faced by Niagara are manifestly not an issue of perception. They aren't going to be solved by positive spin. These are long-standing and systemic problems that require well thought out solutions. The region also needs the kind of political leadership that galvanizes Nisagara residents to

strive for greatness, rather than a blithe acceptance of the status quo.

The closest Niagara has come to that of transformational leadership is in St. Catharines with Mayor Wal-

ter Sendzik's "compassionate city" concept. Sendzik calls for nothing less than a complete transformation of how the commnity approaches issues of poverty and homelessness. If successful, Sendzik's experiment could make the Garden City

an example for other strug-

gling communities.

I am not, as Jeffs suggests, leading a campaign against

leading a campaign against Nlagara. Rather, I am urging our political class to push aside easy sloganeering and speak with some frankness about the problems Nlagara

I recently attended a lecture at Brock University by visiting University of Toronto professor Rinaldo Walcott, who said something that ought to be Niagara's operating maxim: "Never be satisfied with the status quo."

We should not claim greatness but reach for it.
There is great value to be found in grappling honestly with a difficult reality and much worth in inspiring a community to build a better tomorrow for itself

LOCALNEWS

NRE cancelled for this year

Continued from page 3 "I try and get there every year," she said. "But I've

noticed in the past few years there aren't as many people attending on a regular Forster was encouraged

by the plans to regroup and return for 2017. "Maybe they need to reinvent themselves in some

way so they can attract more people from across the region to attend," she said. Forster said there are arms-length provincial agencies that help finance events, adding Canal Days in Port Colborne has received

funding in the past. However, she said she wasn't certain whether the

fair would meet the criteria for that funding. Forster said the loss of the event this year will be felt by

other organizations, too. 'They use volunteer unteers. groups to actually take the fares at the gates and assist with parking, and they provide those agencies - like Rebecca Lodge, for example - with a little bit of money

ble causes?

Foote said finding people willing to volunteer their time to help run the event has also proved to be a chal-

"The volunteer base is drastically reduced over the

last five, 10 or 15 years," he *The younger people are The volunteer base is drastically reduced over the last five, 10 or 15 years."

Board member Bill Foote

working two or three jobs trying to make a living, and the older people, we're getting a little long in the tooth. The idea of putting in 70 hours over three days is just

not feasible anymore." "It takes key people on their feet going to deal with different issues that have arose during the course of the day and solving problems."

Forster also recognized the contributions of the vol-

"These people are volunteers for the most part. They might have one or two paid people, but people volun-teer hundreds of hours and do things to raise money in which the groups use to other ways because they're support their own charita- not taking in enough at the gate to support the event," she said.

The fair can trace its roots back to 1832 when an agricultural event was held on the farm and hotel owned by Ephriam Hopkins. The event grew into the Niagara Regional Exhibition in 1853, a year after the County of Welland was established.

first time in recent history the

NRE has been cancelled, and his father Raymond Sr. said in the 70 years he participated in the exhibition there has never heen a cancellation. Ravazzolo said the board never entertained the idea of cancelling the fair indefi-

nitely, because it has been a

large part of Niagara's herit-

age.
"People seem to always want to go do something new, bulldozing over the past and history and that's wrong."

Ravazzolo said the changes to the exhibition will be kept under wraps until next year. But Foote said the board

is considering changes, such as adding a large flea market to the fair to raise money to help finance the agricultural

portions of the event. "We have to get proactive and we have to look at ways of getting the people in," he said. "But it's going to take a lot of work and a lot of vol-

"We need key people who realize the value of what we have and also look at a clear road ahead to make it possible to bring this back to the region.

Another Welland event held in September, the Niagara Food Festival, was cancelled earlier this year, as







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Pelham defers start of public art project Special to Postmertia Network

Pelham town council last Monday balked at immediately accepting a \$200,000 public art

It acknowledged the contest's winning design, a sculpture of a split standing oak tree by Spanish artist Juanio Novello. The 12-metre-high metal onen tree won out over a col-

ourful Pelham Gateway representing the communities of Pelham by Jennifer Marman and Daniel Borins of Toronto. It also blew past a stylized Pelham House by Kip Jones, also However, after almost 90

minutes of discussion with the selection committee, town councillors deferred a decision to go ahead. They wanted more information about timing of construction, about possible cost increases if the project is delayed and about a possible federal grant to offset funding.

The public art matter will come back to the next meeting of town council on Monday, Councillors said they have

received critical calls, e-mails and comments from residents about the \$200,000 contest. The piece of public art is to

serve as a gateway feature at the eastern entrance to Fontbill at Regional Road 20 and Rice The design committee, how-

ever, now recommends moving the piece to the back of a water retention pond for better display and use. A public survey featur-

ing the three finalists received more than 150 responses. They favoured the Novello tree sculpture, said Donna Hinde, a consultant with The Planning Partnership.

The selection committee directed the contest. It whittled down 25 entries from across Canada, the United States and Europe to three. Contestants had to be experienced public art designers with completed projects

Ward 3 Coun, John Durley said 150 responses to pick a winner in a town of almost 17,000 did not indicate much interest from town residents.

Mayor Dave Augustyn said it was more responses than the 133 a similar survey on the design for the Maple Acre Library received.

In answer to a question, chief administrative officer Darren Ottaway said if town council accepted the recommendation of the selection committee, it would have to go ahead. It already had the project in its

Ward 3 Coun. Peter Pann countered by saying, "we are the corporation, we get to decide." He did not want to leave an impression that this was a "done deal"

"We are echoing what we hear in the streets Ward 2 Coun. Gary Accursi said he was uncomfortable

with construction during the spring of 2017. It would be the same time heavy equipment will be moving around the site as East Fonthill building projects are under

way, he said Ward 1 Coun, Richard Rybiak fayoured the emphasis on nature and trees in the pub-

lic art "We wanted something provocative, we have done that." Ward 2 Coun. Catherine King liked the winning design and recalled the stir made by Henry Moore's art at Toronto's

City Hall, Hinde, the town's consultant, said there is economic value in a prestigious piece of public art like this. It attracts attention and visitors to Pelham, especially if the town has a work by an artist like Juanio Novello.



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⑤ pelham.ca | ⋈ 20 Pelham Town Sauare, PO Box 400, Fonthill, ON | № 905-892-2607 | ⋈ 905-892-5055 Notice to Designate a Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

NOTICE TO DESIGNATE In accordance with Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O. 18, and in the matter of the lands and premises, known as the Comfort House, located at 1732 Cream Street in the Town of Pelham in the province of Ontario.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Pelham intends to designate property situated at 1732 Cream Street (Comfort House) in the Town of Pelham, in the Province of Ontario, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18.

Description of Property Short Statement The property at 1732 Cream Street is located on the west side of Cream Street, north of Tice Road.

Its legal description is Con 6 Pt Lot 12 59R-4007 Part 1, 2, and 3 The property at 1732 Cream Street (Comfort House) is worthy of designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value. The

of the Reason for the Designation Design and/or Architectural

property meets the criteria for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

1732 Cream Street is a two-storey residence that was built between approximately 1808 and 1839. The house was designed in the Georgian style of architecture, currently finished with blue-toned wood siding veneer. The second floor is considerably smaller in terms of height than that of the first storey. The home has a side-gable style of roofing. In which two panels meet at a ridge in the middle of the building and hang over the front facade of the house. The building is simple and symmetrical in form, with small-paned 12 over 12 double-hung sash windows found on the front of the first floor. The back façade windows as well as the second floor windows are casement in style, and the building also features sliding sash windows on the western side. The front door detail is very simple, is centrally located in proximity to the main portion of the house, and features a 9-paned glass rectangular window. Georgian houses are known to be solid and well-built structures which tend to remain virtually unchanged for a number of years after their origin, suggesting it is exterior has changed significantly since its construction and will remain as is for a long period of time.

A one-storey addition to the east side of the house features a similar side-gable roof, a large bay window on the front facade as well as a secondary entrance with a door identical to that of the main entrance. Interiorly, the residence contains two large fireplaces made of red brick that were likely used at one time. but have since been reverted into a decorative facet of the dining and living rooms as evidenced by a lack of coinciding chimney stack on the exterior. The interior is characterized by hardwood flooring, large exposed wood beam cellings, and windows and doorways framed with single wooden board accents. Doors found throughout the interior are typically made of light-coloured wood, and accentuated by antique brass handlesets.

Statement of Historical and/or Associative Value In 1808, 100 acres of property located at 1732 Cream Street was patent to David Secord Sr. Major David Secord of St. David's was a brother-in-law to Laura Secord, and he received the lands as a Crown Grant. Major Secord was a businessman and political figure in Upper Canada, Born in New York City in August 1759, he settled at Queenston in Upper Canada after the war with his father. His father served with Butler's Rangers during the American Revolution, and later David also served as a corporal in the same unit David helped establish the community of St. David's where he built a sawmill, gristmill, blacksmith shop and general store, and his brother James - husband

of Laura Secord - also settled there. In 1796, David was appointed justice of the peace in the Home District, and was elected to the 5th Parliament of Upper Canada representing 2nd Regiment of the Lincoln Militia. He later was elected to the 7th Parliament for 3nd Lincoln. He served in the local militia, eventually reaching the rank of major.

During the War of 1812, his built work in St. David's was destroyed by the Americans. Major David died in August of 1844 and was buried in the Methodist cemetery of St. David's, Unfortunately, evidence as to whether Second actually took up residence in Pelham at any time is inconclusive

At some point between the 1st and 2sd abstract of the Land Registry Patent for 1732 Cream Street, dating between 1808 and 1816, the 100 acres of land were transferred from David Second Sr. to Peter Tice. No record of sale exists to identify when this occurred. The Comfort Family took patent of the land in June of 1815, and the Land Registry Patent document provides evidence of further conveyances amongst the Comfort Family dating to 1862.

Robert Comfort was a United Empire Lovalist. The Comfort Family has strong historical significance to the Town of Pelham, including a long history of philanthropy to the Pelham community. In one instance, John Comfort donated land for the North Pelham Presbyterian Church to be built upon: Dr. Wm. Mingle Comfort also donated land for which the manse of the same church was built on; and, Dr. Comfort's children later donated land for a buffer strip to the west of this church as well.

Contextual Value and/or Interest

The Comfort Family Home at 1732 Cream Street is located a short distance to the south of North Pelham. The original 100-acre plot of land was considered to be a part of the village of Ridgeville, albeit located north of the village boundaries and within the greater vicinity of the Town of Pelham. North Pelham Park was formerly a part of the 100-acre plot, however has since been sold to the Town. The land directly surrounding the residence is heavily wooded, and the house itself sits considerably far back on the lot to the west of Cream Street and north of Tice Road. Located on the land to the north is also the previously designated heritage landmark known as the Comfort Maple Tree. The Comfort Maple is a very

significant part of Pelham's history. It is believed to be the oldest and largest sugar maple tree in Canada. Its importance to the Town has been demonstrated through its use on the front of Pelham's tourism brochure since 1999, as well as its incorporation into the Coat of Arms for the Town of Pelham since 1979 as a symbol of Pelham's place in Canada. The tree is a source of pride for the Comfort family, the citizens of Pelham, the Niagara Region, and the current owner of the tree and its surrounding land. The site of the Comfort Maple is under the care of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

Need more info? Contact The short statement of reason for the designation including a description of the heritage attributes along with all other components of the detailed Heritage Report constitute the 'reason for designation' required under the Ontario Heritage Act.

For more information, please contact Ms. Julie Hannah, Planner, at 905-892-2607, ext. 319, or email at thannah@pelham.ca.

Important

Any objections to this proposed designation must set out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts and must be filed with the Town Clerk, Nancy J. Bozzato, PO Box 400, 20 Pelham Town Square, Fonthill, Ontario, LOS 1E0 no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday September 2, 2016 (within 30 days of the publication of this notice). Unless indicated otherwise, personal information and all comments will become part of the public record and may be publicly

Dated at the Town of Pelham, this 4th day of August, 2016. Nancy J. Bozzato, Town Clerk

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NRE coming back next year

Pretmerlia Network

Welland has said goodbye to its annual fair — at least for this year.

Word dropped early last week about the cancellation of the Niagara Regional Exhibition, Comments on the Welland Tribune's Facebook page soon followed. People left remarks of shock and exasperation, especially since the exhibition is just one more cancelled event the city can add to its list. Many are wondering how

other centres, some as small or smaller than Welland, can keep their events ening. but things here just can't seem to survive. Raymond Rayazzolo.

president of the Niagara Regional Agricultural Society, said he's been on the phone consistently for the past three days and is exhausted.

When the news dropped about the cancellation of the fair last Wednesday, he

cial struggles and lack of attendance

Over the past several years, there have been reports of a decline in rev-

The event isn't gone forever, though.

"We're getting ready for one-five-oh, for next year," Ravazzolo said. He called Canada's 150 anniversary of confederation the "perfect time" to

bring the event back. On Facebook Sandi Curcio, commented that the fair has had a lot of time to get revamped already and that it should have been done

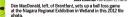
years ago.

In the meantime, Ravazzollo said although the vendors and attractions had been scheduled for this year's exhibition, they've all

been taken care of now that the fair isn't happening. "I've got all that covered, I promise you," he said.

Continued on page 13







FRANK SPANO



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Continued from page 8 While he doesn't always handle every one of those details, he said "nobody's going to be left out in the He declined to com-

ment about deposits being returned or any other monetary details. Efforts were made to learn how some of the vendors and exhibitors have been

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